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18 December 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

South Vietnam:

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[] The government last week closed a newspaper which criticized the Military Revolutionary Council for opposing press discussion of neutrality.]

[The Saigon regime, meanwhile, is continuing its personnel shake-up. Key military changes announced yesterday include reassignment of the I and II Corps commanders in the north and replacement of the air]

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force and marine corps chiefs. Some military officers are apparently becoming dissatisfied with Premier Nguyen Ngoc Tho's performance. Rumors that he and other top officials may be replaced soon have been denied.

The Buddhists, too, are becoming restive again. Buddhist leader Tri Quang has threatened "serious consequences" if the regime does not appoint Buddhist chaplains in the armed forces. A national conference of Buddhist sects, to be held at the end of this month, may provide a sounding board for antigovernment agitators.

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NOTES

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Turkey: The two-week-old political crisis continues. Since the Justice Party (JP) admitted last week that it could not form a government, Prime Minister Inonu has accepted a mandate to do so. Inonu may still experience difficulty in drawing together a new coalition. However, his chances have been improved by the JP's open failure, the politicians' fear that the military may intervene if the crisis is prolonged much further, and the scarcity of other candidates.

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DAILY BRIEF

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- The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
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